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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

OLD MAIN LANDSCAPING TO BEGIN SOON

CHARLESTON - Passers-by along Lincoln Avenue will soon see a change in the landscaping in front of Eastern Illinois University's Livingston C. Lord Administration Building, also affectionately known as Old Main.

This long-awaited project will see the demise of an existing parking lot and the addition of new brick walk-ways and stone and iron gateways, symbolizing the main entrance to campus. Shrubs, trees, annual planting bed areas and the addition of an irrigation system will further enhance the beauty of the project.

A new flagpole, with existing memorials placed around it, also will be installed.

According to Jeff Cooley, acting vice president for business affairs, the university hopes to have the entire project completed this fall. The finished product will complement a streetscape project the city of Charleston recently completed along Lincoln Avenue in front of Old Main.

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

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OLD MAIN LANDSCAPING

The executive committee of Eastern's Board of Trustees on Thursday approved awarding the bid for the project's stone, masonry and iron work to Shoots Excavation of Lerna at a cost of \$411,400 (which includes a 10 percent contingency).

Cooley said the remainder of the project, including the landscaping and electrical work, will be completed by university employees.

Other construction projects taking place on Eastern's campus this summer include the continuation of an \$18 million renovation/expansion of Eastern's Booth Library, scheduled for completion in January; the construction of a Food Court in the northwest section of the main floor of the University Union; and the addition of a new baseball stadium, featuring 550 permanent chairback seats, a concession stand, new pressbox and storage areas.

The University Bookstore also will see its share of activity as crews there undertake its complete renovation, including new lighting, carpeting, shelving and walls at a cost of approximately \$220,000. Work began in early May, immediately following the completion of the spring semester's classes.

According to Shirley Stewart, associate vice president for student affairs, work on the bookstore is expected to be completed by Aug. 1. During the interim, bookstore operations have been moved to the University Union's Vending Lounge.

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Note to Media: A computer-enhanced photo of the landscaping plans for EIU's Old Main may be found at <<http://www.eiu.edu/~pubaff/landscaping.htm>>.